

April 11, 2003

LEGAL NOTICE

TVX Mineral Hill, Inc. (TVX) requested a partial bond release on November 18, 2002 for reclamation work completed at its TVX Mineral Hill Mine near Jardine, MT. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau has calculated a revised reclamation bond amount and is publishing the bond release request as required by the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, 82-4-338(5), MCA, for TVX's Operating Permit 00100.

TVX and its predecessors mined gold from the underground Mineral Hill Mine from 1989 to 1996. The mine has implemented the Consolidated Closure Plan (CCP) and reclaimed the mine site and has built long-term water management facilities on the site. The Mineral Hill Mine is on patented land, but TVX has proposed to donate the private land to the US Forest Service when the reclamation is completed. That donation is still under consideration by the Forest Service.

The CCP resulted in reclamation of the 69 acres of land disturbed by TVX under Operating Permit 00100 since it was issued in 1986. Reclamation included revegetation of all surface disturbances except the Bear Creek Road, which is to be left as a post-mine access road through the property. Historic disturbances in the mining district that predate the passage of the Metal Mine Reclamation Act in 1971 were not included in the CCP. Long-term water treatment is needed on the site for two discharges from the 1300 Level and the tailings impoundment. TVX has constructed the water treatment systems.

DEQ currently holds \$8,537,000 to cover reclamation of the 69 disturbed acres and long-term water treatment on the site. DEQ proposes to release \$3,018,820 of the bond based on reclamation completed by TVX. DEQ would retain \$329,180 for proof of revegetation and minor reclamation work that is still needed on the disturbed areas over the next five years. \$5,189,000 of the existing bond covers long-term water treatment on the site. The water treatment amount has actually increased by \$193,000 in the new bond calculations to \$5,382,000 due to increases in costs associated with treatment of the water from the tailings impoundment. The total reclamation bond now required for Operating Permit 00100 is therefore the sum of the reduced revegetation/reclamation component plus the revised water treatment component, or \$5,711,180.

A copy of the bond calculation documenting the DEQ's conclusions can be obtained by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Management Bureau, P. O. Box 200901, 1520 E. Sixth Ave., Helena, MT 59620-0901, or by calling Patrick Plantenberg at (406) 444-4960. For questions or more information on the bond release process e-mail: pplantenberg@state.mt.us.

The permittee or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by the adjusted bond level may obtain a contested case hearing under the provisions of the Montana Administrative Procedure Act by filing, with DEQ, a written request for a hearing within 30 days of this notice.